

DRAFT

Dear Company Official,

We have enclosed a short questionnaire to help us prepare for the 2012 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS). The CFS is part of the Economic Census conducted every five years. **Please complete the questionnaire and return it in the enclosed envelope within 30 days.**

The CFS provides important statistics about the movement of goods in the United States and how businesses like yours use transportation to ship these goods. These data are used by policy makers and transportation planners to make informed decisions for improving the transportation infrastructure. The survey is undertaken through a partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Your responses are completely confidential under Title 13 of the United States Code, and are seen only by persons sworn to uphold the confidentiality of Census Bureau Information. **Your response to these questions is required by law** - Title 13, United States Code, sections 131, 193, and 224.

The information that you provide will help us prepare for the 2012 CFS. The form consists of a few short questions about this establishment's shipping status and contact information. Should your establishment be selected to participate in the 2012 CFS, the information provided ensures timely delivery of the survey forms.

An electronic method of completing your questionnaire via the Internet is also available. Please see the enclosed questionnaire for detailed information.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Paperwork Project 0607-0921, U.S. Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233. You may also e-mail comments to Paperwork@census.gov; use "Paperwork Project 0607-0921" as the subject.

If you have any questions, please call us toll free at 1-800-772-7851 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in completing this important survey. The CFS cannot be successful without the assistance of establishments like yours.